

HOBBY

# Bandwagon

President



of C.H.S.

Bette Leonard of Wichita, Kansas

Feb. 48—The Collector's Monthly—15c

HOBBY

## Bandwagon

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

122 South Main Street  
Camden, Ohio

February 1948

Vol. 3 No. 1

HARRY M. SIMPSON  
Editor — Publisher

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Member of CHS and CFA  
Camden, Ohio

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## The Publisher Says



On this month's cover, it is a  
pleasure to honor Mrs. Bette Leo-  
nard, who has been elected presi-  
dent of the Circus Historical Soci-  
ety . . . an office that she is well  
qualified to hold and justly de-  
serves.

Qualifications as head of a na-  
tional organization of this type  
calls for someone with great cour-  
age and determination as well as  
the ability to understand people  
of all walks of life. Mrs. Leonard  
possesses these qualities as has  
been proven during the past year.

Bette Leonard was selected as  
president last year following the  
resignation of John Matre and at  
a time when the Circus Historical  
Society needed someone who had  
the ability to rally the members  
and stimulate a greater enthusi-  
asm . . . she immediately prov-  
ed her ability, and from that time  
to this, Bette Leonard made the  
organization stronger than it has  
been since founded in 1939.

The publisher congratulates the  
members on their choice and know  
that they will always be grateful  
and thankful for electing a fine  
and capable lady as their presi-  
dent.

Sincerely,  
Harry M. Simpson

—o—

### NOTICE

Last month, through an over-  
sight, we failed to mention that  
this publication will continue to  
carry news and articles of the  
Burnt Corkers, Inc., as well as ar-  
ticles on juggling and magic.  
Since these features are closely re-  
lated to the circus, they should  
meet with the approval of all read-  
ers.—The Publisher.



# The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the  
**CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Founded In 1939

By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson ..... Editor

## OFFICERS

Bette Leonard ..... President

Maurice Alaire ..... Vice-Pres.

Walter Pietschmann ..... Treas.

John Crowley ..... Secretary

William Green ... Election Comm.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith

Walter Tyson

Arthur Stensvard

John VanMatre

## Bette Leonard To Head C.H.S

In a recent mail election of the Circus Historical Society, Bette Leonard of Wichita, Kansas, was elected president to succeed herself, and all other officers were re-elected for a term of two years.

The vote indicated the confidence and satisfaction of the members in the CHS officers during their past term of office. The constitution as published last August was approved by a vote of 86 to 15 while the raise in dues to include wives was defeated 90 to 70.

South Bend, Ind. was selected as the 1948 convention city over Baraboo, Wis. and Toronto, Ont., Canada. Bette Leonard has named the following convention committee: Dr. H. Powers, chairman, Otto Schieman, Terrell Jacobs, Robert C. King, Charles L. Duble, George W. G. Piercy and Chalmer Condon. Headquarters will be at the beautiful Oliver Hotel under the management of circus fan Jack McNutly. Word from the convention committee indicates that they will stop at nothing to make this the greatest convention in the history of CHS.

Election Commission Bill Green, in submitting the following official returns, reported that 171 ballots were returned, three failed to sign or indicate their membership number and many did not vote a complete ballot. The vote was as follows:

For president—Bette Leonard, 135 votes; Walter J. Pietschmann, 30 votes.

For vice-president—Maurice Alaire, 71 votes; Bill Kasiska, 55 votes Burns Kattenburg, 39 votes.

For secretary—John J. Crowley, 135 votes; Murray Guy, 29 votes and Chris Audibert, 4 votes.

For treasurer—Walter J. Pietschmann, 94 votes; Milo Smith, 40 votes and C. Wixom, 31 votes.

For editor—Harry M. Simpson, 110 votes; E. W. Cripps, 28 votes and John Van Matre, 21 votes.

Convention city—South Bend, 75 votes; Baraboo, 49 votes; Toronto, 19 votes; New York, 1 vote and Philadelphia 1.

## THANKS

I wish to thank the members for the vote of confidence given me in the recent election and assure you that I will continue to do everything possible for the good of the Circus Historical Society. It is my hope to have a membership roster printed in the near future and that all will plan to attend the 1948 convention at South Bend.

Bette Leonard,

President of C. H. S.

## NEW DIRECTOR

Bob Taber of Riverside, Calif., has been named the new director of Division 8. Taber replaces the late Charles Curtiss.

## PIETSCHMANN WINS TROPHY

Our treasurer and noted photographer, Walter J. Pietschmann of Detroit, won the Firth trophy at the annual convention of the Photographic Society of America recently held in Oklahoma for his photograph "Indian Princess." This trophy was donated by Tom and Caryl Firth of Trappe, Md.

Mrs. William Lerche, mother of William C. Lerche, CHS 24, passed away at the family home, 115 Fairfield, Bellevue, Ohio, on January 25th.



# REMINISCES of JAKE POSEY

## "Last of the Forty Horse Drivers"

I was with Sells Bros. enormous railroad shows, 1881-82-83. In the spring of 1884, father told me if I was determined to follow show business, get in the right end of it, where I could get good pay and have an easy time. He said: get in the Advance. He said he would get me placed with the John Robinson Circus. We went up to Robinsons Opera House, Father, Jack "Gov" Robinson, Gil Robinson and George Aiken, car manager, sat in the bar talking over old times, while I went in to see the show. Father had me placed all right. I was told the advertising car would be in the rear of the Russell & Morgan Lithograph Factory, to load with paper. I went down, cleaned the car manager's office and arranged the stationery, in proper places. I was to be messenger on the car, this was on Saturday, the car was to leave the following morning, for Hillsboro, Ohio. I went up town that Saturday night, dropped in Frank Wright's saloon, where all the showmen met. Frank was an ex-boss canvasman. While in the saloon, four drivers came in, on their way to Columbus, Ohio, to join the S. H. Barrett Circus, owned and operated by the Sells Bros, Lew Sells, manager. We had a few beers, the train left at 12 o'clock and I was on it, having "blowed" my nice job on the Advance. When I arrived at winter quarters, I was given a six horse team. Jack Schumate was boss hostler. I was with the S. H. Barrett Show, 1884-5-6-7.

1888, Jim Stowe, Harry Long and Abe Gumble put out a new wagon

show. It was a home made affair, built in a hurry, with green lumber. Oliver Scott was general agent. He engaged me to drive a six horse bill wagon. The show was being built in Columbus, Ohio. Oliver Scott told me to go out to Sells Bros. winter quarters, where there was two carloads of Oregon horses, pick out my team. These horses were not even halter broke. I picked the team and started breaking. I had four men in the hospital when the team was broken, and I started on the road. As I said, the show was built with green lumber, when it started to dry out, the wagons fell apart. Consequently could not keep up with the paper, lost money and was sold by the sheriff in Princeton, Kentucky. Was in Princeton a few years later. Saw several cages in back yards, serving as chicken coops, and the wheelers I had were pulling a coal wagon.

1889, I went out with Miller & Freemans Circus, a small 10 car show out of Columbus, Ohio. I took care of "Black Diamond", a stallion, broke for a nice menage act. Ridden by Polly Lee. Polly's husband, Bud Gorman, was equestrian director. Polly also did a principal riding act. "Black Diamond" was the property of Doc Freeman and was on the trotting track before he was broke for menage. Diamond was a bad actor, would bite and kick when he had a chance. In conjunction with taking care of Diamond, I also did the trapping in the pad room and drove 10 horses on the band wagon in parade. It was a nice one ring show and made money.

### CIRCUS — WANT TO BUY — MAGIC

Cash for Circus and Magic programs, posters, heralds, couriers, old prints, books (fact), letters, letter heads, photos, route books, songsters, handbills, lithographs, etc. State all in first letter, giving dates, number, condition, price. Cash paid day items received. America's foremost dealer in Circus material.

### C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

P. O. BOX 722 : SYRACUSE 1 : NEW YORK



### C. H. S. PHOTO

This month's photo is being sent to all members of the Circus Historical Society at the expense of two members who just couldn't wait their turn, Dr. H. Powers and Otto Scheiman of South Bend, Ind. Doc and Otto were figuring up the years before their turn and decided that thirty years was too long to wait. The negative belongs to Otto Scheiman and expense has been divided between these two members.

The original photo is from the collection of W. H. (Bill) Woodcock of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who furnished the following description: The photograph shows W. H. Woodcock, large male elephant "Black Diamond" and a lion cage with Monroe Bros. Shows and was taken at Junction, Texas, in 1925. Woodcock worked this bull with the Atterbury Bros. Shows in 1924, but the show was sold to Albert Monroe Cauble, a Texas showman, who enlarged the show to 8 wagons and 8 trucks and changed the title to Monroe Bros. Shows. Under Cahdle, the bull was advertised as "Congo" but the bull's name was actually "Diamond." The show had no advance agent and would send cards to the postmaster stating that the show would play there "on or about" and ask the P. M. to pass out hearlds, etc. and accept comps for his trouble. When the show arrived on the lot the greaseball cookhouse was unloaded out of the calliope and then one of the clowns would drive to the next town, straighten out for the lot and license, play the calliope and

pass out more bills announcing that the show would play there the next day.

The lion cage was built for Andrew Downie's Walter L. Main Circus, he sold the show to Miller Bros. in 1924 and as they had no use for the cage wagon with a Wild West Show, sold the cage and two lions to Cauble. As it had been repainted with Miller Bros. 101 Ranch on the top riser or sun board, Woodcock placed a piece of canvas over the title so it wouldn't show in the picture.



Advertising Copy For

**April Issue**

must reach this office by

**March 15th**

**H. D. GOLDEN**

—presents—

## **H. D. GOLDEN'S 3-Ring CIRCUS**

"The Smallest 3 Ring Circus To Be On Tour In 1948"

**Thanks and Best Wishes To All My Friends**



# Interview Recalls 1888 Robinson Circus Train Wreck

In an interview by Richard Conover of Dayton, with Charles Toops of Wilmington, we are able to give the following details on the John Robinson Show train wreck on Sept. 8, 1888.

Mr. Toops, now 82 years of age, was a trombone player with the Robinson 35-car circus of that year and relates that when the circus train was enroute from Xenia, Ohio, to Morrow, Ohio, they stopped to take on water when a freight train involved a rear end collision killing seven and injuring 40, all occupants of the fifth car forward from the rear. The Robinson private car (John G., owner) was in the rear and telescoped under the next car, the third car in which Mr. Toops was riding did not leave the track but the fourth car telescoped over the fifth causing it to leave the track and turn over. This was apparently all the damage done to the 35-car circus train. Mr. Toops stated, "that the show carried a giraffe and the German keeper was very much relieved when he found that his charge had survived."

Mr. Toops was with the John Robinson Circus from 1884 to 1890 and 1893 and with the Buffalo Bill show in Europe from 1903 to 1905.

## THANKS

The publisher wishes to thank the following for items received for his collection from Don Smith, Dr. H. Powers, C. Spencer Chambers, W. L. (Bill) Montague, W. H. Woodcock, Mills Bros. Circus, Daily Bros. Circus, Public Stamp Co. of Shanghai, China, John Kleppinger, George Piercy, Walter B. Fox, C. F. Millard, Hi Lo Merk, Walter J. Pietschmann, Bette Leonard, Lou Hayek and Joseph L. Tracy.

James A. McInnes of Alburtis, Pa., is shown with his collection of circus posters in an illustrated article on the Hobby Show at Allentown.

## CIRCUS ARTICLES

HOLIDAY, Jan. 1948—photos of R. B. & B. B. taken at Sarasota, Fla. . . . OMNIBOOK, Feb. 1948—condensed version of "Gus the Great" . . . READER'S SCOPE, Dec. 1947, short article on P. T. Barnum . . . POLICE GAZETTE, Feb. 1948, "Lives and Loves of the Midgets" with photo of Jimmy Armstrong . . . U. S. CAMERA, Feb. 1948, news photo of the Alzanas accident . . . THE WHITE TOPS, Nov.-Dec. 1947—"Orrin Bros. Circus of Mexico," illus., by C. G. Sturtevant; same issue, "Gentry Bros. Famous Shows," by Charlie Doble . . . SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, Jan. 24, 1948—Story in regard to age of man and animals with cover photo of elephants . . . BANNER LINE, Jan. 1948—"Circus Agents I Have Known," by Walter L. Main . . . RAILROAD, Feb. 1948—"Slippery Buck's Circus Robbery" (fiction) . . . BILLBOARD is a must with every collector and fan.

## Echo of Sun Bros.

Peter A. Sun, Rosewood Ave., is another of Toledo, Ohio's group who helped entertain the country years ago, and is as bright today as a new silver dollar. You may remember Sun Brothers Circus, a dandy in its time. Peter was one of the brothers. Here is another story about how some persons can rise in this country if they have "what it takes." Pete was the youngest of a family of seven children. His father died when Pete was 14 months old, leaving the mother down on a little Toledo street, where he was born, with hardly anything to live on. Just the same, as the family grew, they worked and thrived, with the wonderful aid of their widowed mother. The time came for the circus, a dandy in every way. Wolfe featured in the Toledo Blade.

F. M. Farrell, ventriloquist, with James M. Cole Circus last year and injured in an automobile accident, is reported as showing marked improvement at his home in Ithaca, N. Y.



# Sells Bros. 6 Enormous R.R. Shows

By Bob Taber, C. H. S.

When the Sells Bros. Enormous Railroad Shows united was billed for Ft. Dodge, Iowa, Monday, June 19, 1882, announcement was made that it required more than 3000 yards of canvas in the largest spread of canvas ever erected for this monstrous union.

"No less than three rings will suffice to present their manifold first time features within the hours devoted to the exhibition purposes, presenting a myriad of original attractions and introducing to the public a wealth of startling novelties entirely unprecedented in the amusement world, necessitating specially constructed palace, stock and platform cars and the largest railroad trains ever used for the transportation of an amusement organization.

"A parade without precedent in grand spectacular effects and scenic splendor, introducing among its many episodes the beautiful national tableau entitled Columbia and her court of beauty in which are appropriately grouped four of the most handsome women in America.

"The consolidated marvel of six great menageries constitute the largest zoological collection traveling. Among the many features in this department will be a pair of full grown hippopotamus, a monster white rhinoceros, a brace of Siberian albino bears, a melacca barbiroussa, a herd of mammoth elephants.

"In the equestrian department will be the absolutely inimitable riding of Mr. Chas. Fish, the phenomenal four-horse rider, Signorita Adelaide Cordonier; the re-

## BRITISH CIRCUS PHOTOS

SEVEN REAL POSTCARD-SIZE photos together with my interesting list of British Empire circuses. One dollar bill. Eddie Hawthorne, 48 Leander Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England.

## COVERED WAGONS

Complete with oxen. Draft horses. 40 horse hitches. Write for information and prices.

T. J. MALONEY

16 Edward St. Tonawanda, N. Y.

nowned Caron and Washington troupe; the illustrious family of French artists Davene, 20 funny clowns led by the prince of laugh makers, Mr. Chas. Seeley, ably seconded by his aide de camp Mr. Ed Neary."

(Courtesy of E. W. Cripps)

Robert D. Good of Allentown, Pa., has closed his drug store according to the BILLBOARD. This was headquarters for circus fans, press agents, etc. for ever 47 years. Good formerly sold tickets with the John Robinson Circus and horseman and menage rider on the Ringling-Barnum show. Good is a member of both CHS and CFA.

Walter L. Main, who is making a trip through the South, Mexico and West Coast, writes that he spent a day with Mills Bros. at Circleville, Ohio, a couple days with Zack Terrell of Cole Bros. at Louisville and visited with C. C. Smith in Jackson, Miss. Smith was formerly with the Walter L. Main Circus.

Word has been received from Eugene C. Feigert of Van Wert, Ohio, to the effect that the National Geographic Society will again publish an illustrated article on the circus by F. Beverly Kelley. This feature will carry many photographs including 24 high-speed natural color photographs. This should be as valuable to the collector as the Oct. 1931 circus issue.

We have just received word from E. W. Cripps of Brantford, Ont., Canada, to the effect that he has suspended publication of his Great Britain Bandwagon Notes. We hope that conditions will soon make it possible for Mr. Cripps to soon be able to resume this very interesting publication.

The Allentown (Pa.) Evening Chronicle of January 16th carried an illustration and article on con-tortionist Albert S. Chryst, who recently ended a forty year circus career. Chryst recently celebrated his 80th birthday.



## SECOND OPENING

Ladies and gentlemen, it happened like this. The flag hadn't been up very long and I was on my way back to Fred's table to order a full house when the old man yelled at me from the first table to stop over with him a minute. "Say," he said, "look this thing over," and pulled a couple of sheets of paper out of his pocket and went on back to his ham and. It was a double sheet and the blue penciled item was a review on a new book by a guy named Manuel Komroff and there he was muggin for you on the top of the next page. He just looked like a guy that might be in the know and about the only thing you could tell from the pose he gave you was that it had probably taken a long time to write the book and he was so wrapt up in his book that he'd left his mustache grow wild from the overture to the final curtain. I was catching more of this copy regarding the thing, such as, selling for three bucks a copy, being published by Farrar, Straus and Co. Inc. and rolling the title around in my head, "Feast of the Jesters," and sort of figuring that to be kind of a screwy title to tag a book with, when the man on the front door of the cookhouse brought these two fellows in. You could tell by looking at them they had been drinking some but the old man got up and gave them a cordial greeting. This wasn't the old man's stock greeting either, but the real McCoy, you could tell from your seat on the ring curb that his interest was jenyowine. That old act he always went into like "isn't it hot today," and then rub his handkerchief across hat forehead of his, didn't have a spot on this program. He always told me to get 'em talking about the weather and then you can get out of there gracefully. It wasn't long till on the off side he gives me this one, "Say these guys have done me more favors than an eight horse hitch with an extra six hooked into the bull ring could pull and I've got an appointment in the white wagon and I have to be there." Take them over to my wagon, there's a couple of canvas chairs there and that book we been talking about is right up to the left of that short ladder, take a look

at it when you can. But wait a minute here, whose going to take my Second Opening?" I said. "I'll take care of that, I'll have Hal to do a blowoff and then make a second opening too," he replied.

The boys came over then and he told them he'd have to leave and that I would take care of them, so we walked on over to the old man's wagon. They took the chairs and I grabbed a seat at the top of the short ladder and found the old man's book there. While I was still talking the boys sort of edged the chairs together, stretched out in them and began doing some reminiscing. They started passing the bottle too and invited me to join them but I knew the old man and kept out of that one. They were dragging out their show language but on the last round they began getting it mixed up with their newspaper copy and it began to sound like this. Say, a guy named Walt Lippman was writing about a show playing the continent today. In fact there are two shows over there playing the same territory. A guy named Marshall is working ahead of the Sam Show and a guy named Molotov is working ahead of the Joe show. They say the territory isn't big enough for two but neither of their outfits want to pull out and leave the other one have it all to himself. They were thinking about combining them and calling it the Reconstruction Show but it seems this Marshall and Molotov can't agree on whose going to play what territory for fear the opposition will get the biggest take out of it.

Walt Lippman gives them a write-up in this book of his "The Cold War," that's published by Harper and Brothers and on sale at all book counters for the insignificant sum of one dollar. Walt tells them in this simplified document of his, that the policy the Sam Show should work with is whether, when and on what conditions the Sam show can prevail on the Joe show outfit to quit playing continental European territory. Walt claims that a few second string outfits that the Joe show has got out playing the sticks, such as suburban Far East doesn't come into the picture. Joe's big show is carrying a Red Army title and not a Karl Marx Ideology one.



If Marshall and Molotov were right here on this midway doing some work over there in that Streets of All Nations Show and they sneaked out under the back flap to catch Walt Lippman pacing up and down on that platform in front of his show, pointing it out to the crowd, that he has to pitch to, with that walking stick of his emphasizing his viewpoint and then waited around to discover that he'd been so serious about it that when he became exhausted from making his opening he came down off that platform of his, walked up to his own ticket box and bought a ticket to his own show those two boys would really ducked back into theirs and given his viewpoint a lot of conscientious afterthought.

The trouble with the whole territory to be played tho is a one that any of the boys in the white wagon on the Sam show or any of the boys in the white wagon on the Joe show can tell you at once, neither of those outfits can take out a show with a "World War III" title on it without going broke.

Say a German boy named Ernst Erich Noth has sure got a good show to offer called "Bridges Over the Rhine" that follows right close to Walt Lippman's idea and even if it is an imported act is certainly is a classic because Noth has his sincere line of thought going thru its paces for you on paper like a big cat act from Hamburg. It sells for three dollars and is published by Henry Holt and Company.

The boys stopped off here for breath, and a cab came on the lot that some of those kinkers had been down town in. "Let's hail him and go back" they said and with a sclong for me and a chunk of well wishing for the old man they ran for the cab.

This left me sitting alone in the Old Man's wagon so just thought that I'd better mention that this second opening is entirely fictitious, the characters, dreamed up are exactly that and particularly the two drunks that figured you could not sell both Sam and Joe that if they took out a show with a World War III title on they'd go broke with the doggone thing—doggone it.

I thank you one and all for your kind attention.—Mac.

## CCC ELECT OFFICERS

The Circus Clown Club of America have announced the election of the following officers: Richard Arcand, president; Marge V. Kelly, financial secretary; Curtis E. Little, publicity; Stan Bult, European representative; Clara W. Little, auxiliary head; Jack Vinnick, adv.; Phil Kallail, travel and booster; Judy Christy, western division; Dr. C. S. Karland, eastern division; Mrs. Isabelle Gladue, Canadian auxiliary; Antoine Bedard, edical travel assistance; Richard Arcand, jr., militant and patrol; Dr. T. R. Lockner, chaplain; Louie Le Voie, travel facilities; Mrs. Stanley Christy, domestic affairs; Bill Treadwell, social publicity; Leopold Gladue, non-actice booster; Ira Kelly, jr., booster.

—O—

Jimmy Armstrong, prominent clown with R. B. & B Circus last year is touring with the Clyde Bros. Indoor Circus this winter.

## Shop & Swap Guide

4c per word, three insections of same adv. for price of two. Display adv. \$1.50 per inch. Remittance and reference with first order.

### FOR SALE

100 OLD BUTTONS FOR \$1.00, ALL different. Mrs. Stanley S. Reynolds, 112 Malta Ave., Ballston Spa, N. Y. 3t12

### WANTED

WANTED. — ADVERTISING PENCILS, advertising and political buttons, celluloid and metal. Fred S. Ring, Route 3, Owatona, Minn. 6t47

WANTED TO BUY—CHARACTER type tobacco jars of all kinds. Send description and price. Also will swap for duplicates. Norman W. Habersat, 3127 N. 21 St., Milwaukee 6, Wis. 6t3

I W A N T TO BUY OLD U. S. stamps on or off cover, also early Ohio covers, APS. 17819, E. C. Blank, 242 Irving Ave., Dayton 9, Ohio.



## THE GOLDEN CIRCUS

This show as Mr. Golden puts it is a crossroads show. I have not made a lot of money with it, as it's just a hobby and I want it to stay that way, as my small son is the only one who travels with me. I do not carry a top any larger than a 12x12, but I do use a sidewall enclosure.

The rolling stock consists of 1 4-wheel cage trailer and a large 4-wheel box trailer with drop sides. We carry 7 cages of animals and birds in addition to 3 trained goats and two trained dogs, a trained dove. Four doves who perform on a ferris-wheel, merry-go-round teeter-board and a ladder and I do magic. I don't use any seats or have not so far, but I do have 5 sections of blue's, 4 high in case I should ever want to enlarge, which I might in 1949. That is the dope on my small novelty show. It is not a circus in one way of

looking at it and in another way it is as I have trained animals "nothing large" and I only make (1) day stands. So you name it.

Members of C. H. S. and fans, I'd call the above a circus, what do you say?

(Courtesy of E. W. Cripps)

—o—

Murray Guy of Jeanette, Pa., "America's One and Only Living Man with Hair that is 34 inches in length" is recovering from an eye operation.

—o—

Glen Tracy of New Richmond, Ohio, was featured in the Cincinnati Enquirer Pictorial Magazine on December 14th under the title "Painter of the Circus." Mr. Tracy's photo appeared on the cover in color and two pages of pictures of this famous artist were shown on the two center pages. All that have seen CFA member Tracy's painting will agree that they are superb.



Make Your Plans Now  
To Attend The

C.H.S. Convention  
at South Bend, Ind.  
"The Greatest Ever Held"





J. Lester Haberkorn, President  
Geo. Evans, V. Pres., Chas. J. Tripp, Treas.  
D. W. Denton, Secy., Lancaster, Ohio  
Anne L. Denton, Asst. Secy.

DIRECTORS: A. O. Brown, Chas. McClintock,  
Karl L. Denton, Elmer Jackson, Perrin Hazelton,  
Oak Shannon,

Official Publication: HOBBY-BANDWAGON

## A. G. ALLEN MINSTRELS

By Karl Cartwright

A great deal has been written about the Minstrel Shows of the Theatre, but very little is told about the Minstrel Shows that toured under canvas. So I will tell you about the A. G. Allen Minstrel Show.

This Minstrel was organized in Chicago, Ill. in 1893, the year of the first Chicago World's Fair and was owned by Allen, Quine and Oaks. I believe this was the first Minstrel to play under canvas.

Although owned by whites, this was an all-colored troupe, who began their season in Chicago lots. They went on the road traveling in three railroad cars, but this was soon cut down to one car and Geo. Quine, the manager, claimed the show never made money until it became a one-car outfit.

Front end of the car was a stateroom and office for the managers, then another stateroom for the white employees, then a row of sleeping car berths. Lower berths were seats and tables were placed between the seats for meals. Balance of car contained kitchen and baggage.

Mr. Oaks sold his interest to Allen and Quine, the former was advance agent and Quine was manager. Allen and Quine dissolved partnership in 1914 and Quine went to Detroit, Mich., while Allen continued the show until it folded up a short time later in Oklahoma.

In 1917 the Allen Show was put back on the road by F. S. Wolcott with George Quine as manager. The show opened at Friad Point,

Miss. early in September and had a very profitable four months and was then sold to a Mr. Brownlee, who operated the show for one season. Brownlee changed over to a Tom Show and had a successful run on the Pacific Coast playing theatres.

In 1922, F. S. Wolcott and George Quine bought the F. C. Huntington Colored Minstrel and operated this show until October 31, 1929, when Mr. Quine passed away at Canouthersville, Mo. . . . he was a real showman and a prince of a man.

Mr. Wolcott still successfully operates the Rabbitts Foot Show with headquarters in Port Gibson, Miss.

The writer was ticket seller with the Allen Minstrels in 1917 and had the same position with Huntington Minstrels in 1923. Howe and Hunt bought the Allen title from Brownlee and operated the show for several years.

## Business Directory

Rate—three lines for 6 months, no change in copy, \$3.00; or 12 months for \$5.00.

PHOTOS—BARNUM & BAILEY, In Europe, list on request. Jake Posey, 549 North Maine St., Baldwin Park, Calif. 347

ANIMAL, RAILROAD, MUSIC, Flower, Sport, Ship Stamps on approval. E. Ferguson, 217 Charles, Westfield, N. J. 6t1047

ANTIQUES—WHEN IN CAMDEN, stop at Hattie Hibbins, S. Main St., Camden, Ohio. x6

ANTIQUES, CHINA AND GLASS-ware. Emma Huffman, South Main St., Camden, Ohio, on Route 127.

NEW & USED BOOKS, BACK COPIES magazines. Pat's Trading Post, 105 W. Main, Johnson City, Tenn.

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